(b) whether it is fact that many more illegal slaughter houses are working and increasing in the country;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to stop such illegal slaughter houses; and

(d) how many cattle-heads have been slaughtered during 1997, 1998 and 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Welfare of Tobacco Farmers

4894. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICAR has not shown adequate interest in the welfare of tobacco crop and farmers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ICAR has not reacted promptly to various representations from tobacco growers associations for relief and intervention;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for this lethargic and distant approach of ICAR;

(d) whether it is a fact that ICAR is keen to reduce its involvement in tobacco; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During the last 50 years the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), Rajahmundry under the aegis of ICAR has done commendable work in identifying high yielding tobacco varieties and developing package of practices which resulted in economic upliftment of tobacco farmers.

Prompt action by ICAR has always been taken on the representations received from tobacco growers/associations within the area jurisdiction of its mandated operations.

(c) Question does not arise, Sir.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. ICAR is giving full encouragement and sufficient funding for conducting various research activities on tobacco for the welfare of

tobacco growers. As compared to VIII Plan (Rs. 465.39 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 2138.45 lakhs for Non-Plan) CTRI has been allocated Rs. 600.00 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 3640.00 lakhs under Non-Plan for the IXth Plan. For the All India Coordinated Research Project on Tobacco, Rs. 200.62 lakhs was sanctioned for VIIIth Plan which has been increased to Rs. 391.00 lakhs in the IXth Plan. This clearly shows that ICAR is not reducing its involvement in tobacco.

Production of Rice and Maize in Himachal Pradesh

4895. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of rice and maize has not been increasing in Himachal Pradesh at the same rate as that of requirement of the population;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been decline in maize and rice production in Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether the ICAR or any other agency has made studies in this behalf; and

(d) if so, the cause of this decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The production of rice and maize in Himachal Pradesh has increased during last five years as indicated in the following table:

(Production in 000 tonnes)

Year	Rice	Maize
1995-96	111.2	660.7
1999-2000*	120	682.0

*Advance estimates 1999-2000

Based on normative requirements of foodgrains as recommended by National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and projections of average population, the average foodgrains requirements in the State of Himachal Pradesh during the triennium ending 1998-99 was 1.26 million tonnes against the production of 1.41 million tonnes. The separate requirement, of rice and maize is not compiled.